

[illegible]

**(10) International Publication Number**  
**WO 03/106781 A1**

**(57) Abstract:** There is provided cladding apparatus comprising a body portion (108) having an inner surface (110) and an outer surface (112) extending longitudinally between a leading edge (114) and a trailing edge (116) and transversely between opposed side edges (118). The leading edge (114) is provided with a formation (124) which inter-engages with complementary formation (126) provided on an adjacent body portion thereby permitting the body portions to inter-engage when laid in a longitudinal sequence. The body portion (108) is provided with a pair of longitudinally extending elongate mounting portions (128) on the inner surface (110) thereof. A longitudinal mounting batten (144) is attached to the fascia panel (106) adjacent to the exposed edge of the tiles (104), and into which the elongate mounting portions (128) may slide. A roof batten (132) is laid on the tiles and has on its lower face a plurality of steps which compensate for the overlapping nature of the tiles to provide a level upper face (140) when laid on the tiles (104), the upper face (140) forming a labyrinth with the inner surface (110) to assist in excluding weather in use.

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU03/00743

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b>		
Int. Cl. <sup>7</sup> : E04D 13/15		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) DWPI & Keywords: clad, tile, tiling, panel, sheet, ridge, corner, junction, intersection, edge, cover, seal, conceal, protect, complement, interlock, engage, mating, roof, fascia, cap, join, connect, and similar terms.		
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 394150 A (L'INDUSTRIELLE REGIONALE DU BATIMENT) 24 October 1990 see whole document	1, 14, 15
A	CA 1300338 A (WILLIAMS) 5 December 1992 see figures 1 & 2	
A	US 5555680 A (SWEERS) 17 September 1996 see figure 1	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex		
<p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</p> <p>"&amp;" document member of the same patent family</p>		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 22 August 2003		Date of mailing of the international search report 29 AUG 2003
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929		Authorized officer  Geoff Sadlier Telephone No : (02) 6283 2114

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU03/00743

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	GB 2294275 A (EXCEL ROOFLINE SYSTEMS LTD) 24 April 1996	
A	EP 519856 B1 (PERIZ COROMINAS) 24 April 1996 see figures 1, 2 & 6	

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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### Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos :  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos :  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos :  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

### Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

See supplemental box.

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:  
1-17

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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### Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of Boxes I to VIII is not sufficient)

#### Continuation of Box No: II

The international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention because it does not relate to one invention or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. In coming to this conclusion the International Searching Authority has found that there are different inventions as follows:

1. Claims 1-17 are directed to a cladding apparatus for covering the junction between adjacent cladding portions of a building. It is considered that a complimentary mounting portion provided on the inner surface for association with at least one adjacent cladding portion comprises a first "special technical feature".
2. Claims 18-19 are directed to a cladding system wherein claim 18 defines a planar cladding member and claim 19 defines a longitudinal batten. It is considered that the inter-engaging arrangement of these respective elements comprises a second "special technical feature".

The feature common to all of the claims is the inter-engagement of cladding members. However this common feature is generic in the art. Consequently the common feature does not constitute "a special technical feature" within the meaning of PCT Rule 13.2, second sentence, since it makes no contribution over the prior art. Since there exists no other common feature which can be considered as a special technical feature within the meaning of PCT Rule 13.2, second sentence, no technical relationship within the meaning of PCT Rule 13 between the different inventions can be seen. Consequently it appears that a posteriori, the claims do not satisfy the requirement of unity of invention.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/AU03/00743

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member	
EP	394150	FR	2645890
CA	1300338	NONE	
US	5555680	NONE	
GB	2294275	NONE	
EP	519856	NONE	
END OF ANNEX			